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consideration of new state schemes prior to 1780. The schemes for colonizing the West prior to the Revolution aimed at the establishment of British colonies. Schemes proposed after the Declaration of Independence aimed to establish new states. Westsylvania and Silas Deane's suggestion are the two new state schemes considered in Chapter V. The author's general conclusion is that "we may fairly say that the schemes for new western governments prior to congressional action on the subject, served as a not unimportant factor in ushering in that action."

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Les Origines du Socialisme d'Etat en Allemagne. By CHARLES ANDLER. Pp. 495. Price, 7 francs. Paris: Felix Alcan, 1897.

The author of this valuable and interesting book believes in the power of ideas and of ideals to shape and direct social and political institutions; and believing that the thoughts of Savigny, Gans, Hegel, Rodbertus, Lassalle, Thünen and List, have profoundly modified the Germany of to-day, he thinks it worth while to examine carefully their ideas, to trace them at times to their sources, to compare them one with the other and to note their relative influences upon present day state socialism.

In the introductory chapter, after explaining briefly the purpose of his work, the author makes clear his understanding of the significance of socialistic doctrines, and thus acquaints the reader with his point of view. The socialistic problem is the abolition of poverty. One of the chief causes of poverty is established law. The Socialists, therefore, must set up an ideal law toward which they can struggle, and which, when secured, will abolish poverty. The first problem of the author is to describe the origin and bases of the new law which the Socialists propose.

He calls socialistic the systems of legal and economic thought which keep social needs in the foreground and adapt the protective organization of society to these needs. His second problem, therefore, is to discuss the socialistic treatment of social needs and the organization of labor proposed to satisfy these needs.

In the study of the distribution of wealth most political economists describe merely the effects of the established legal systems upon the distribution of wealth. The Socialists, on the contrary, present a preferable legal system which will, in their judgment, secure an ideal distribution and which, they believe, will thus abolish poverty. They believe that no one class in society has a

right to appropriate the means of production for itself at the expense of the other classes, and their theory of crises rests upon the belief that certain classes have thus deprived others of their due share in the means of production. The validity of the belief is examined by the author as a third problem.

All systems which propose a remedy for social crises by legislative means conformed to ideal juridical principles, are socialistic. He states and discusses the systems which have been proposed by the German State Socialists. And finally he calls socialistic the doctrines which teach that social solidarity can be realized not through any "harmony of interests" pre-established among men, but rather in a certain *milieu* called the state, and by the intervention of a collective, deliberating will. For his last problem, then, he will discuss the institution of this power proposed by state socialism.

In the present volume he completes only part of his task, discussing the origin of the socialistic conceptions of law, of property, and the retroactive effects of established laws; the socialistic conceptions of economics, of social value, of the organization of social labor, and of the distribution of wealth, under the captions of social revenue, of rent, of capitalistic revenue, and of wages.

The task of presenting the views of socialists, and of showing the relation between the different writers is thoroughly well done. The attitude of the author is, throughout, sympathetic, but he does not follow his leaders blindly. His position is that of one who anticipates more widely extended state action, but who feels that this increase of state functions ought to come gradually and without any especial effort on the part of individuals to hasten it.

There is in his judgment a social question—or rather there are several social questions—but their solution is not to be looked for immediately. Any attempt to realize now the plans of the Socialists would probably result in defeat. Society is not yet ready for their introduction.

He has no objection to the socialistic ideal of "liberty in justice," nor would he object to the further statement that "individual liberty can flourish only in a just society;" but he does not anticipate any immediate realization of complete liberty in this ideal society of the Socialists. He is inclined rather to see a gradual approach toward this ideal condition, and that through an increase in the functions of the state; but he realizes that the readjustment to new laws and new conditions that will be brought about by this increase in state functions must raise still more new social questions, and that all these social problems can never be solved. We may, however, rejoice in the thought of a continual progress toward a

better state, and may even enjoy the prospect of the "noble and insatiable torment" which leads us to pursue an ideal, even though that ideal can never be realized in its entirety.

It is to be hoped that the appearance of the next volume of this helpful and very suggestive study may not be long delayed.

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A Short History of British Colonial Policy. By HUGH EDWARD EGERTON. Pp. xv, 503. Price, 12s. 6d. London: Methuen & Co., 1897.

There are few fields of historical research which offer such opportunities to the investigator as the colonial policy of Great Britain. Three sciences, history, economics, and politics unite in a theme which possesses both historical interest and present importance; indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that the problems connected with her colonial policy are those of most vital importance to Great Britain at the present time. The history of British colonial policy is a subject as difficult as important. The territory which the historian is obliged to cover is large, and is full of paths that lead to many contiguous domains of closely related subjects. The literature, both primary and secondary, to be mastered, is extensive, and the successful treatment of the subject requires a rigid exercise of the powers of exclusion on the part of the author. Mr. Egerton has done his work well. He has kept to his subject, and has produced a well-balanced book written in a tone of commendable fairness.

The author divides his subject into five parts. The first division deals with the period of beginnings and ends with 1651, when the first navigation act was passed. The second part, covering the time from 1651 to 1831, is called the period of trade ascendancy. This was the period when the colonies were regarded as though they existed for the benefit of the commerce of the mother country, the period of the dominance of the mercantile system in political thought. The third division of the volume treats the time from 1830 to 1860, "the period of systematic colonization and of the granting of responsible government," "wherein a genuine attempt was at least partially made to develop colonization on some sort of scientific principles." The fourth section of the book covers the period extending from 1861 to 1885, which marked the zenith and decline of *laissez-aller* principles. The last section of the volume, in which the years since 1885 are considered, deals with the period